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## "WE HAVE EVOLVED"

*Editorial by O'Tar T. Norwood, M.D.*

*This is the last issue of the *Hair Transplant Forum International* before the new subscription year begins. It is a good time to review the past two years, bring us up-to-date on what's going on presently, and look to the future.*

In reviewing past issues, it is remarkable how fast things are changing. It is amazing how many variations there are and how much improvement can take place in a procedure that at one time seemed so simple and stayed the same for so long. We have evolved through many stages.

1. Two years ago, probably the majority of surgeons were doing large grafts. Now, I am sure, the vast majority are doing **minigrafts and micrografts**. The minigrafts are getting smaller all the time and the number of micrografts is steadily increasing.

2. The number of **grafts** done per session has increased immensely. Four and five hundred per session is not uncommon, and I recently received a report from Austria where they do nine hundred per session. (See Page 8).

3. Originally, most minigrafts were placed in **slits**. **Holes** have gradually increased in popularity and judging from my correspondence and old issues, I believe it is about even, with holes, perhaps, still gaining. There is a place for both, so I believe this controversy will never be completely settled.

4. The **strip or knife** method of harvesting is rapidly gaining favor. The knife requires more surgical skill. There is more bleeding, and proper suturing is more important because the wound is deeper, wider, and gaps much more after being cut. Some believe it should be closed in layers.

5. Technically, **transplants** are becoming much more difficult. Cutting the strip with a knife at the appropriate, uniform size is much more demanding. Also, keeping it parallel to the hair follicle requires more skill.

6. A relatively new method of harvesting the donor area was introduced by Bob Limmer, of San Antonio, Texas (Forum - Volume 2, #2), and Marcelo Gandleman of Brazil (Forum - Volume 1, #6). This is

*(Continued on next page)*